

Amendments to the Claims

1-28. (Cancelled)

29. (New) A method for regenerating a catalyst comprising:

taking a catalyst-containing component containing a plurality of solid catalyst components deteriorated in a reaction and having different shapes from one another, and an inert grain body substantially inert to the reaction and having a different shape from the plurality of solid catalyst components, out of a fixed-bed reactor;

an inert component separation step for separating the inert grain body, and a catalyst component separation step for separating the plurality of solid catalyst components, wherein said inert component separation step and said catalyst component separation step are performed such that the solid catalyst component and the inert grain body, or the solid catalyst components can efficiently be separated from each other, after said taking-out step by a method selected from:

separation method 1 wherein sieving is performed by use of a screen having rectangular openings of length a x length b which satisfies the following conditions (1) to (3):

(1) $a < b$;

(2) a is larger than a minor axis of a grain having a small minor axis and smaller than a minor axis of a grain having a large minor axis; and

(3) b is larger than a major axis of a grain having a small minor axis;

separation method 2 wherein separation is performed by utilizing a difference in ease of rolling caused by a difference in sphericity; and

separation method 3 wherein separation is performed by utilizing a difference in ease of crushing caused by a difference in falling strength;

wherein separated components thus obtained are again subjected, as necessary, to the inert component separation step and/or the catalyst component separation step by one of the separation methods 1 to 3, thereby efficiently separating the solid catalyst component and the inert grain body, or the solid catalyst components from each other; and

a regenerating step for regenerating the thus separated solid catalyst components.

30. (New) The method according to claim 29, wherein separation method 1 is performed.